

Application No. 09/631,414
Amendment dated March 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 4, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 (the Office Action states 1-10) are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,466,330 B1 to Mori ("Mori").

The acknowledgement, in the Office Action, of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received, is noted with appreciation.

Please note that an Information Disclosure Statement, along with a PTO Form 1449, was filed on August 3, 2000; however, the copy of the PTO Form 1449, which was included with the Office Action, was not initialed or signed by the Examiner. Enclosed is a copy of the Form 1449. Acknowledgment of receipt of this document is respectfully requested.

The indication, in the Office Action, that the Examiner has no objections to the drawings filed on August 3, 2000, is noted with appreciation.

The objection to the title of the invention as not being descriptive is noted and a new title is presented in this Amendment which is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to correct minor informalities therein. The changes are not necessitated by the prior art, are unrelated to the patentability of the invention over the prior art. Claims 3 and 6 have been amended and new claims 10-20 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter has been added.

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35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

It is axiomatic that a "claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." MPEP 2131 citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The rejection of claims 1-9 (the Office Action incorrectly states claims 1-10) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mori is respectfully traversed because the cited reference fails to describe each and every element set forth in the rejected claims.

The claims are directed to a communication device that may be connected to multiple communication channels, each of which has a distinct address. For example, a facsimile machine that is capable of sending and receiving faxes via the Internet as well as by conventional telephone transmissions necessarily has a telephone number and an IP address. Keeping track of the multiple addresses associated with a communication device can be administratively problematic. The claimed device solves this problem by exchanging address information with other devices regarding their assigned addresses.

Mori does not disclose, teach, or suggest these claimed features. Rather, Mori discloses a method of forwarding facsimile transmissions to email and forwarding email to a facsimile machine. Mori also discloses a method of relaying a facsimile transmission through a chain of network facsimile machines. However, there is no disclosure that the facsimile machines exchange addressing information for multiple communication lines as claimed. Indeed, Mori seems to rely on having the facsimile machines preprogrammed by a user so that 'addresses' are assigned to "previously registered short-cut numbers" or one-touch dialing numbers. Column 4, lines 62-64 and column 7, lines 15-19. The system disclosed by Mori would increase the administrative burden of using the machines due to the need to keep the one touch dialing numbers up-to-date.

In contrast, the claimed invention seeks to reduce the administrative burden of using multi-line communication machines by having the machines exchange address

information when two machines communicate. The exchanged address information is stored for later use. This enables the machines to keep address information up-to-date automatically. For example, during a first transmission using the telephone network, two devices may exchange addressing information including Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. During subsequent transmissions, the devices may connect using the Internet instead of the telephone network. These claimed features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Mori.

For example, claim 1 recites “a transmission unit for transmitting a plurality of its **own address data** corresponding to each of the plurality of communication lines to the specified transmission destination.” Mori does not disclose, teach, or suggest a device that transmits a plurality of its **own addresses** to another device. Accordingly, claim 1 distinguishes and is patentable over Mori.

Regarding claim 3, Mori does not disclose, teach, or suggest a device that transmits “a plurality of its **own address data**” and receives “at least one address data from a data communication apparatus at the transmission destination.” Accordingly, claim 3 is not anticipated by Mori.

As to claim 5, which recites “a transmission unit for transmitting **a plurality of its own address data** corresponding to each of the plurality of communication lines to the specified transmission destination.” Mori does not disclose, teach, or suggest a device that transmits a plurality of its own addresses to another device. Accordingly, claim 5 distinguishes and is patentable over Mori.

Claim 6 recites a unit “for receiving at least one address data from another data communication apparatus” and a unit for “transmitting a plurality of its own address data to the other data communication apparatus.” It is respectfully submitted that Mori does not disclose, teach, or suggest a device that receives address data from another device and transmits a plurality of its own address data to the other device. Accordingly, claim 6 distinguishes and is not anticipated by Mori.

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It is respectfully submitted that claim 9 also distinguishes over Mori. Claim 9 recites steps of :

“receiving at least one address data from another data communication apparatus;
recording the received address data; and
transmitting its own address data to the recorded address”

Mori fails to disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest a device that receives an address from another device, records the received address, and transmits its own address data to the recorded address. Therefore, Mori does not read on and cannot anticipate claim 9.

In light of the forgoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Mori does not anticipate claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 9, nor the claims depending therefrom. For at least these reasons, the rejections over Mori should, therefore, be withdrawn. Furthermore, new claims 10-20 include features not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Mori and are, therefore, also allowable over Mori.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increases the number of claims beyond the number for which fees have already been paid. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

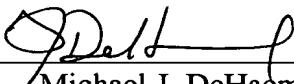
Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

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If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 2, 2004

DAI 281862v6